

PORT DEVELOPMENTS

98. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Minister for Ports:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's investment in job creation and the economy, driving infrastructure across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how this government is unlocking new trade opportunities through port developments such as Lumsden Point?
- (2) Can the minister outline what these developments mean for local jobs, businesses and the Western Australian economy?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Pilbara for that question.

- (1)–(2) Earlier this week we were joined by the Prime Minister, the federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King, and the federal Minister for Resources, Madeleine King, to make some significant announcements for the Pilbara. Work is already underway and we have secured hundreds of millions of dollars to help secure the diversification and expansion of trade at the port in Port Hedland. Over \$500 million has been allocated by the federal government and a further \$100 million has been allocated by the state to build Lumsden Point. That will support thousands of jobs as we support further exports of key commodities such as lithium and, of course, the importation of turbines to power the renewable energy sector and help the hydrogen industry. The estimated value of these projects to the state is \$25 billion. It will also support further direct shipping between Singapore and the Pilbara, removing the need for ships to bypass the Pilbara to come to Fremantle to put the equipment onto trucks. We want to support more direct shipping into the Pilbara. Within five years, we have moved from having none of this type of trade to having 11 000 20-foot or equivalent units per annum, significantly reducing shipping costs and supporting economic development in the regions.

The interesting point to note is that while we were in Port Hedland and then Fitzroy Crossing—it was a big day on Tuesday—the “city-Nats” were here in the city.

Mr S.A. Millman: The “MetroNats”!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is a good one. I might get some bumper stickers done, members. The “MetroNats” were here in the city complaining about cuts to infrastructure funding while we were in the north west announcing over \$500 million of new infrastructure funding. Then they went into Midland—the hypocrisy is incredible. Last week, the Leader of the Nationals WA; Leader of the Opposition said that the level crossing removal project on the Armadale line was a vanity project. Then he stood in front of a level crossing in Midland and said, “We are going to build this level crossing removal now!” He called the removal of level crossings on the Armadale line a vanity project, and then he went to Woodbridge and said how incredible it is that we had not removed that level crossing and we needed to do it now. Do members not find that slightly —

Mr D.T. Punch: Odd.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: — odd and strange, and inconsistent?

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He made a claim about cuts. I do not know how many times we have to say this, but there is a lot of activity going on out there—billions of dollars' worth. As we know, there are some supply chain issues and pressures to get projects delivered. As I said, whether a person is building a pergola, buying a car or getting a new oven, there are delays. Everyone has experienced them. It has been really tough to deliver these major projects, particularly over the past few years. We constantly work to re-cashflow. We do not cut projects. The member announced that 33 projects were cut. I ask him to name one that we cut. Can he name which projects have been cut? He has been going out and saying that 33 projects have been cut, but he is not able to name one today.

What we have always said is that we continue to work. Last year, I think the figure we budgeted was around \$3.2 billion, and we spent \$3.2 billion across the transport portfolio. This year, we are budgeting \$4.5 billion and we are on track to deliver that amount. We are spending more than ever before; I think it is probably three times the amount spent the last year the opposition was in government. Then, the opposition goes around making false claims that we have cut 33 projects, when it cannot even name one. The member goes around with the other city National, federal member Hon Bridget McKenzie, making false claims around the city, while we are in regional Western Australia building new projects for the Pilbara to drive economic growth and create more opportunities.

If we look around the state, we see that the member is the only person who thinks we are not spending enough money on transport in Western Australia.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition with the last question.